

## Organizing Committee

**Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer**  
*Senior Advisor, KAICIID Dialogue Centre*  
Vienna, Austria

**Dr. Brian J. Adams**  
*Director, Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue, Griffith University, Australia*

**Rev. Prof. Dr. James Christie**  
*Director, Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy University of Winnipeg, Canada*

**Prof. Pieter Coertzen**  
*Faculty of Theology*  
University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

**Dr. Ganoune Diop**  
*Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty*  
Seventh-day Adventist Church, Maryland, USA

**Prof. W. Cole Durham, Jr.**  
*Founding Director, Int'l Center for Law and Religion Studies, BYU Law School, USA*

**Prof. Cristina Calvo**  
*Director, Int'l Program on Democracy, Society, and New Economies, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina*

**HE. Metropolitan Emmanuel of France**  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

**Prof. Alessandro Ferrari**  
*Director, Center on Religion, Law and Economy in the Mediterranean Area, Insubria University, Italy*

**Prof. Marie-Claire Foblets**  
*Director, Department of Law & Anthropology*  
Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany

**Prof. John Kirton**  
*Co-Director, G20 Research Group, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Canada*

**Dr. Elizabeta Kitanovic**  
*Executive Secretary for Human Rights,*  
Conference of European Churches, Belgium

**Prof. Asher Maoz**  
*Dean, Peres Academic Center Law School, Israel*

**Prof. Katherine Marshall**  
*Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs Georgetown University, Washington, DC*

**Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake**  
*Superior General, Konko Church of Izu, Japan*

**Midori Miyazaki**  
*Director, International Shinto Foundation (for Dr. Haruhisa Handa), Washington, DC*

**Prof. Faizan Mustafa**  
*Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, India*

**Prof. Juan G. Navarro Floria**  
*Pontifical Catholic University; National Justice and Peace Commission, Argentina*

**Prof. Norberto Padilla**  
*President, Latin American Consortium for Religious Liberty, Argentina*

**Dr. Peter Petkoff**  
*Director Law and Religion Programme, Regent's Park College, Oxford University, UK*

**Dr. Raúl Scialabba**  
*President, Argentinian Council for Religious Liberty (CALIR), Argentina*

**Dr. Humberto Shikiya**  
*Director General, CREAS – ACT Alianza, Argentina*

**Prof. Xiaoyun Zheng**  
*Deputy Director, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China*

Institutional affiliation for identification only



## G20 Interfaith Forum

170 Kessels Road  
Nathan, QLD 4111  
Australia

www.g20interfaith.org  
info@g20interfaith.org

+61 (0)7 3735 7052

## Concept Paper for

## G20 Interfaith Forum's 2018 Initiatives

The 2018 G20 Interfaith Forum will take place 26-28 September in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Meetings will be held in the Auditorio Manuel Belgrano in the historic Palacio San Martín of Argentina's Cancillería, the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs, and the nearby Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel and Convention Center. This is the fifth annual event in a series of G20 Interfaith Forums held in relation to the meetings of the international "Group of Twenty" (G20) Economic Summit. The G20 Interfaith Forum is pleased this year to partner with meetings of the Argentinian project *Ética y Economía*, an ongoing dialogue on religiously- and ethically-informed dimensions of the economy, development, and society.

**Previous Interfaith Forums** have been held in Gold Coast, Australia (2014); Istanbul, Turkey (2015); Beijing, China (2016); and Potsdam, Germany (2017). The 2018 Interfaith Forum will be held in the lead up to the thirteenth G20 Summit, which will take place in Buenos Aires 30 November – 1 December 2018. (Summary videos and programs of the previous Interfaith Forums can be viewed [here](#).)

**Rationale.** Practical and ethical insights of global religious communities make substantial if often unrecognized contributions to priority global agendas. The annual G20 Interfaith Forum aims to build a network of networks of faith and interfaith leaders from around the world, together with non-governmental organizations and other policy leaders. Through three days of discussion and dialogue, the culmination of extensive prior consultations, participants highlight the roles that religious communities can play in promoting the goals of successive G20 Economic Summits. The Forums draw on the expertise of a range of opinion leaders, including political leaders, academics, lawyers, and civil society leaders.

**Objective.** The Forum helps to identify and showcase the policy and societal contributions of faith traditions and philosophies on leading global issues. It creates opportunities for communication and relationship building, and raises the profile of participating communities, groups, and organizations. The aim is to develop recommendations on priority issues that draw on interfaith insight and experience. Particular attention is paid each year to ways that religious communities can contribute to the host country's priorities. Thus, the agenda of this year's Forum reflects topics that the Argentine government has identified for this year's G20 Summit and broader

objectives of the continuing G20 Summit process. The long term objective is to enhance the capacity of different groups to work together to strengthen human development, understood in the broadest sense, among other things through promoting the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The hope is that dialogue and networking facilitated by the Forum will raise the level and effectiveness of religious input on major global policy issues.

### **Forum Title and Theme:**

The overarching theme for this year's G20 Interfaith Forum is **"Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development: Religious Contributions for a Dignified Future."** Over three days, presentations, panel discussions, and working group sessions aim to build networks and develop concrete policy recommendations on the following subthemes:

- **Inequality, Religion, and the Future of Work and Education**
  - **Accommodating Religion in the Workplace and Schools of the Future**
  - **Changing Women's Roles to Reflect Equal Rights and Opportunities: Religious Debates and Action**
  - **Religious Perspectives on Innovation, Labor, and Education**
- **Religion, Environmental Change, and a Sustainable Food Future**
  - **Religious Contributions in Movements to Protect the Environment**
  - **Religion and the Fight against Hunger**
  - **Religious Action Regarding Extractive Industries**
- **Urgent Priorities for Social Cohesion**
  - **Refugees, and Migration: Religious Insights and Action**
  - **Religious Perspectives and Action Regarding Violent Extremism, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding**
  - **The Role of Freedom of Religion or Belief: Practical Dimensions**
- **Religion, Good Governance, and Sustainable Development**
  - **Sustainable Finance and Financial Inclusion**
  - **Debates and Action on Economic Policies including Financial Inclusion (Infrastructure)**
  - **Priorities for Equal Opportunities and Respect for Human Rights**
  - **Structural Inequalities and Development**

### **G20 Interfaith Forum Structure**

The program in Buenos Aires, from 26-28 September 2018, opens on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Thus most participants coming from outside the Buenos Aires area should arrive the day before. The program consists of an array of presentations drawing on leading expertise and global diversity. Based on increasing interest over the years, we are preparing for 200 or more participants and attendees. Ties to the overall G20 process are informal, but the Argentinian G20 organizers have displayed strong interest in the work emanating from the G20 Interfaith Forum initiatives, recognizing their potential to make a strong and independent, internationally-based contribution to the overall G20 process. As in past years, several regional pre-Forum meetings feed recommendations into the final event and on to G20 leaders. Focused working groups are developing concrete policy recommendations around various G20 themes. Forum organizers hope to work closely and synergistically with other developing programs and engagement groups in the G20 process.

The Forum is organized by the G20 Interfaith Forum Association, in collaboration with many other organizations. A list of collaborating institutions is available [here](#) or [below](#).

Simultaneous translation of all sessions will be provided in English and Spanish.

## **Tentative Schedule of Events**

### **Day One (September 26):**

- Inaugural Session with Keynote, Political, and Religious Leaders, to be held in the Auditorio Manuel Belgrano, Cancillería Argentina, Esmeralda 1212-CABA
- Forum reception
- Plenary session on “Inequality, Religion, and the Future of Work”
- Parallel sessions on labor-related issues, refugees, and other religion and human rights issues

### **Day Two (September 27):**

- Plenary session on “Religion, Environmental Change, and a Sustainable Food Future”
- Parallel sessions on religion and the environment, food security, and anti-corruption efforts
- Plenary session on “Religion, Urgent Global Priorities, and the G20 Agenda”
- Parallel sessions on the future of education, addressing religious violence, religious freedom and anti-discrimination norms, global health challenges, and conflict resolution

### **Day Three (September 28):**

- Plenary session on “Advancing the Work of Religiously Affiliated Humanitarian Organizations”
- Plenary session on “Religion, Good Governance, and Sustainable Development”
- Concluding Plenary

The program is subject to adjustment before the September event. Exhibits relevant to the Forum may be arranged.

The G20 Interfaith Forum in Buenos Aires will emphasize linkages between Argentinian priorities and other urgent global issues. For example, we anticipate highlighting Latin American and emerging country perspectives on the various subthemes. Perspectives of indigenous peoples will be reflected. Argentina does not now face a major refugee issue, but migration challenges are pertinent and, overall, religious voices have much to say on these topics. Similarly, issues regarding sustainable food supplies are tightly linked to broader environmental issues. Opportunities for dignified labor holds the key to solving many of the problems of youth radicalization. The Forum will explore perspectives on human development deriving from religious sources: how can these dimensions be integrated synergistically with broader strategies for facilitating achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**Participants:** Participants from a wide range of religious, national, academic, and policy backgrounds will come together to raise the level of discourse on the relevant issues and to develop practical recommendations. Working groups are being commissioned to cultivate continuing reflection on specific topics st where religious voices are particularly well-positioned to make recommendations and to encourage implementation. The aim is to explore ways that religious communities can assume responsibility and contribute distinctive ideas and solutions that can interact with and reinforce the efforts of public and civil society institutions.

Participants in the various Forum working sessions are encouraged to confer in advance to identify key issues and to develop concrete policy recommendations. The Forum will bring together youth leaders from various religious backgrounds to contribute insights on various Forum themes. Interested persons may attend at no cost, provided they register by sending an

email with name, institutional affiliation, and email to [info@g20interfaith.org](mailto:info@g20interfaith.org) and receive (subject to space availability) a confirmation that they are registered.

**Extracurricular programs:**

- Specially arranged tours to important historic and religious sites in the area may be available.
- Meetings with religious and governmental leaders.
- Possible special meetings can be arranged by various collaborating institutions or religious communities.

**Venue:** Palacio San Martin, Auditorio Manuel Belgrano, Cancillería Argentina, Esmeralda 1212-CABA, Buenos Aires and Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel and Convention Center.

For information on these events, see our website of past Forums [here](#). This site contains leads to the official web pages for past Interfaith Forums that include programs, speakers, videos of many of the Forum speakers, and so forth.

See List of Collaborating Institutions [below](#).

## Collaborating Institutions

- A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY), UK
- African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies
- Alliance of Civilizations Institute at Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakif University, Turkey
- Amity Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, New Delhi, India
- Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University
- Brunel Law and Religion Research Group, UK
- Center on Religion, Law and Economy in the Mediterranean Area, Insubria University, Como, Italy
- Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue, Griffith University, Australia
- Center for Research and Training in Interfaith Relations, Morocco
- Comisión Nacional Justicia y Paz, Argentina
- Consejo Argentino para la Libertad Religiosa (CALIR), Argentina
- Consorcio Latinoamericano de Libertad Religiosa
- CREAS – ACT Alianza, Argentina
- Department of Law and Religion, Complutense University, Spain
- Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance, Bangladesh
- Instituto para el Diálogo Interreligioso, Argentina.
- International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, Milan, Italy
- International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University, USA
- International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD)
- International Religious Liberty Association
- International Shinto Foundation
- KAICIID Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue
- Ma'din Academy, India
- Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany
- NALSAR (National Academy of Legal Studies and Research) University of Law, Hyderabad, India
- Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- Oxford Society of Law and Religion, UK
- Regents College, Oxford University, UK
- Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation—Section on Law and Religion and Canon Law, Spain
- Sant'Edigio Community, Italy
- World Faiths Development Dialogue